

Rural Sanitary District

OF

TENTERDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

TENTERDEN RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

IN THE YEAR

1900,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.



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The Population of the Tenterden Rural District was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General to be **6·267** at the middle of 1900, showing a decrease of 29 since the middle of 1899.

One hundred and thirty-eight Births were returned, consisting of 67 of males and 71 of Females, and giving a **Birth-rate** of **22·0** per 1,000 of population, as compared with 20·1 in the previous year.

The number of registered deaths amounted to 80, consisting of 42 of males and 38 of females. In addition to these, 13 occurred outside the District amongst persons belonging thereto, viz ;—at the Union Workhouse.

The Death-rate was **14·8** per 1,000 of population, as against 15·5 in the previous year and 12·6 in 1898.

Of the total 80 deaths, 3 were caused by one or other of the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz :—2 by Diphtheria, and 1 by Diarrhœa.

In addition to these one death of a resident from Diphtheria occurred outside the District in the Union Workhouse, and this death is also taken into account in the calculation of the **Zymotic Death-rate**, which was **0 6** per 1,000 of population, as compared with 1·4 in 1899 and **nil** in 1898.

The Infant Mortality, *i.e.* the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was **94** as against 118 and 56 in the two previous years.

During the year 1900 the Birth-rate throughout England and Wales, taken as a whole, was 28·9, the lowest on record ; the General Death-rate 18·3 and the Zymotic death-rate 2·00 per 1,000 of population.

The rate of mortality amongst infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 154.

It will be seen from the above that the vital statistics for the past year are of a distinctly satisfactory character.

The birth-rate, however, is still extremely low, being 6·9 below that of the Country generally.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

It may be noted that the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, has by the Infectious Disease (Notification) Extension Act, 1899, (which came into operation on January 1st, 1900,) been made compulsory in every Urban, Rural and Port Sanitary District in England, and Wales.

Under these Acts, now together cited as the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, 26 cases were reported, consisting of 10 of Scarlet Fever, 15 of Diphtheria and 1 of Erysipelas.

Scarlet Fever rose from 2 cases in 1899 to 10 cases in 1900, which occurred 3 in January and one in each of the months of February, May, September, October and December, and 2 in March.

The parish of Appledore contributed 3 cases, Biddenden 4, Wittersham 2 and Woodchurch 1, and the following are the age periods at which they occurred :—

5—15 years.	25—65 years.
<hr/> 5	<hr/> 5 = 10 cases.

No deaths were caused by this disease.

Diphtheria. Fourteen cases were reported during the year, viz:—8 at Appledore, 2 at Biddenden, 2 at High Halden, and 2 at Woodchurch. One case of Membranous Croup (or laryngeal Diphtheria) occurred at Biddenden, making a total of 15.

All the cases were reported in the second half of the year, viz:—1 in June, 2 in July, 2 in August, 8 in November and 2 in December.

It will be seen that more than half the number of cases, viz:—8 occurred at Appledore during the latter part of November.

The first case was notified on November 19th, and died the following day. The patient, a little girl aged 10 years, attended the National School, Reading Street, (a hamlet of Tenterden parish, but the school is attended by children from Appledore) to within 5 days of her death, and I therefore, recommended the closure of the school for a fortnight.

Seven cases, two of whom were adults, followed this at the Post Office, and one, an infant, aged 9 months, succumbed to the disease on November 27th.

Great care was taken in the treatment and isolation of these cases with the satisfactory result that the disease was entirely stamped out.

I made two inspections of the school premises and everything was done to ensure the safety of the children. The rooms were cleaned out, slates, etc. scrubbed, and some of the books destroyed.

The Sanitary arrangements of the school were satisfactory, but the water was of inferior quality, and I met the Chairman of the School Committee (Rev. C. B. Hall) and the Treasurer (Mr. W. G. Wright) on the premises with a view of discussing an arrangement for the provision of a better supply. Although the water was not of good quality, I did not consider that it had anything to do with this outbreak of Diphtheria, personal infection doubtlessly being the important factor.

The following are the age periods at which the cases and deaths occurred :—

0—1 years	1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—65 years
<hr/> 1	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 4 = 15 cases.
1		1		= 2 deaths.

Erysipelas produced only one non-fatal case at High Halden in July.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

It is very satisfactory to record that no deaths were caused either by Measles or Whooping-cough throughout the year

Diarrhœa caused one death only, in August, at Biddenden, that of an infant under one year of age.

Influenza was responsible for 7 deaths, 5 in January, 1 in March and 1 in September, and the ages of the patients varied from 12 to 76 years. Four occurred at Biddenden, 1 at High Halden, 1 at Wittersham and 1 at Woodchurch.

INSPECTIONS

Seven separate inspections were made by me during 1900 in addition to those connected with cases of infectious disease.

There are no Common Lodging Houses, Factories or Workshops in the district which is wholly agricultural.

The slaughter-houses are nearly all of simple construction and not situated in thickly populated places and any nuisance arising has been from accumulations of offal or manure, which have in all cases been removed on representations being made to the occupiers or owners.

The Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds are fairly satisfactory, but the cowshed drainage in many instances requires re-construction to be on anything like modern principles.

No complaint of the condition of Bakehouses has come to my knowledge.

No public drainage works have been carried out during the year, and the removal of refuse is in all parts of the District carried out by owners or occupiers, and in no case have Urban powers been acquired for refuse removal at the public expense, the places being too scattered and too thinly populated for any such systems being necessary.

Over-crowding has not been prevalent but on two occasions I have inspected travelling vans on this account.

The bye-laws with respect to Vans and Tent Dwellers, which were allowed by the Local Government Board on September 6th, 1898, have proved useful, as a great many itinerants pass through the District, and without such powers as the bye-laws give, would remain for lengthened periods in the same place and become sources of nuisance, unprovided as their dwellings are with drainage or sanitary conveniences.

WATER SUPPLY.

In September last, I made a detailed inspection of the water supply of Biddenden, and in a Special Report, dated September 27th, 1900, showed that the water supply to that village was both deficient in quantity and inferior in quality, the majority of the residents drawing their water from open ponds, which were in most cases quite inadequately protected from casual contamination.

The Cranbrook Water Company's mains now pass through Rolvenden, and the other parts of the District, on their course to the Borough of Tenterden, where this supply has been available for some time past. The question of bringing the water to Biddenden, is entirely a financial one, and probably not insuperable, but the want of a supply is undoubted, and there is (as former experience has proved) no chance of a good supply being obtained from actually local wells.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

It was found necessary to advise the closure of the following Schools :—

National School, Reading Street, Tenterden :—

April 9th to May 7th, on account of the prevalence of Measles.

National School, Biddenden :—

May 28th to June 11th, on account of the prevalence of Mumps.

National School, Reading Street, Tenterden:—

November 26th to December 10th, on account of the prevalence of Diphtheria.

Mr. Turner's Report of work done during 1900, is appended.

It will be noticed that the Statistical Tables at the end of this report, are somewhat different from those of former years. The four new tables have been issued by the Local Government Board in place of the two headed "A" and "B", which were until recently in use, with a view to facilitate record of a minimum amount of statistical information of the sort desired by the Board.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW

Tenterden,

January 30th, 1901.

To the Chairman and Members of the

TENTERDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to report on the work carried out, as Inspector of Nuisances, for the year ending December 31st, 1900.

During this period 113 inspections were made, and 20 cases required notices to abate the nuisances existing. Seventeen complied with the order, and the others will put the necessary work in hand at once.

The sewer at the Lane, Rolvenden, is completed, and has proved quite satisfactory.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. L. C. TURNER,

TABLE I.
Name of Tenterden Rural District.
For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898.	6325	141	22.2	8	56	69	10.9	11	...	11	80	12.6
1899.	6296	127	20.1	14	118	91	14.4	7	...	7	98	15.5
Averages for years 1898-1899.	6310	134	21.2	11	87	80	12.6	9	...	9	89	14.0
1900.	6267	138	22.0	13	94	80	12.7	13	...	13	93	14.8

Area of District in acres	Total population at all ages	At Census of 1981
(exclusive of area covered by water).	38,854.	6,537
		1,400
		Average number of persons per house 4

TABLE II.
Name of Tenterden Rural District.

NAME OF LOCALITIES.	TENTERDEN RURAL			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1900 ...	6267	138	93	13

TABLE III.
Tenterden Rural District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						65 and upwards.
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	14	1	2	6	1	4	...	...
Membranous croup	1	...	1	..	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet fever	10	...	...	5	..	5	...	...
Typhus fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	26	1	3	11	1	10	..	..

TABLE IV.

Tenterden Rural District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	
Small-pox .....	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Croup .....	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Fever {	Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	
	
Epidemic influenza...	7	...	...	1	...	5	1	...
Cholera .....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis .....	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	5	...	...	...	1	4	...	2
Other tubercular diseases	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	1	...	...	..	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	5	1	..	...	...	2	2	1
Pneumonia	5	...	1	...	1	2	1	...
Pleurisy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Venereal diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	2	2	...	...	...	..	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...
Heart diseases.....	14	...	...	...	...	4	10	1
Accidents.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	33	8	4	2	1	2	16	6

